

BOOK NOTICE

Spiders of Connecticut. By Benjamin Julian Kaston, Ph.D.
State Geological and Natural History Survey Bulletin No.
70, Hartford, Conn., 1948. $9 \times 5\frac{3}{4}$ inches. 874 p. 142 pl.

This impressive monograph is more than its title implies. Its geographical scope extends beyond Connecticut and includes Massachusetts, Rhode Island and that portion of New York east of the Hudson River and south of the westward extension of the northern boundary of Massachusetts. From this region, 597 species (in 224 genera) are treated. Of this number 462 species (in 184 genera) were collected in Connecticut.

Approximately the first fifty pages are devoted to a general, informative account of the biology of spiders including their external and internal anatomy, life history, habits, parasites, economic importance, and the collection and preservation of specimens. The balance of the work is taxonomic and includes keys to families, genera and species, as well as diagnostic characters of genera and species, distribution data, notes on habits, life histories, etc. This portion is accompanied by 142 plates with over 2,100 figures illustrating various species, anatomical details, webs, egg sacs, etc. A glossary and bibliography add to its completeness.

This work is another example of the outstanding contributions to natural science that originate in Connecticut. It is the result of many years of research and study, and Dr. Kaston's authorship of it is a sufficient guarantee of its excellence and scholarship. It is gratifying to know that in some places, funds are still available for the publication of extensive biological studies.—H. B. W.